INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

46TH SESSION - 1970

A G E N D A

I. Discussion on Secretary's Report

II. Conspectus of action taken on previous resolutions and recommendations of the Commission (40th-45th Sessions)

(Please see pp.19

III. RESOLUTIONS BY THE MEMBERS

A. Preservation of important newspapers in the Central/State Archives

1. Resolution by Shri Tara Sharan Sinha

"Resolved that at least two sets of important Newspapers (under publication or out of publication) be centralised in Central/State Archives for their use as contemporary source material.

It is further resolved that every archival organisation should subscribe on regular basis important Newspapers in English and in other languages popular in their region and such papers for preservation should be intact and no clippings should be done for whatsoever purposes.

Also resolved that where old copies of Newspapers are not available the Central/State archival organisations should purchase from the available sources or on transfer from Government Offices if they have."

Explanatory Note: The importance of Newspapers as a source of information of important events/incidents/ occurences as well as for their views on contemporary events/matters has been universally recognised. The news-items, the feature articles, letters to the editor or the editorials themselves speak of the mind and mood both of the contemporary Government and the people. In other words the programme, policy, lines of action proposed or adopted by the Government or the feeling and aspirations of the public are conveyed to the world through journalistic lenses and the filter glasses. It is for this reason that efforts are being made to preserve old issues of important Newspapers. For example, by Resolution V of the 30th Meeting (New Delhi, July, 1960) the Research and Publication Committee recommended that "the Union and the State Governments be requested to issue necessary instructions to the administrative Departments under them not to destroy the old newspapers, gazettes, books etc. in their libraries without consulting the officers-in-charge of Archives Offices". The same spirit is reflected in Resolution VI of the 37th (New Delhi, October, 1966) Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission, which recommended for the preservation of the volumes of all important newspapers and periodicals published from Goa whether they be still current or defunct. But there is not a clear cut policy resolution for the centralisation of the collection of important newspapers at one place, (i.e. archival repositories) on permanent basis for use by research scholars. It is, therefore,

necessary that a uniform policy be adopted for centralisation of atleast two sets of important newspapers in archival organisations so that if for one reason or other one set becomes unworkable the other is readily available for use. Moreover, these should not be damaged by cutting and removing any part of any particular issue for any sort of reference work. If the archival organisation is not subscribing either current newspaper or does not possess back issues either of the current or defunct papers, necessary funds should be provided to fill up the gaps.

Standing Committee's views: Preservation of newspaper files and clippings do not come, strictly speaking, under the perview of Archive institutions. There are various research institutions, libraries etc. which preserve the important newspapers. Besides, the newspaper offices themselves maintain backfiles.

B. Publication of a compendium of the Indian Historical Records Commission Resolutions

2. Resolution by Shri Tara Sharan Sinha

"Resolved that a compendium of all the Resolutions approved by the Indian Historical Records Commission in its past sessions be published for the convenience of its members. This compendium be edited with short notes giving in nutshell the position of their implementation in Centre/State alongwith references to earlier and latter resolutions on a particular subject."